GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2355
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
SUPPLY OF SUB STANDARD SEEDS
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of certain companies involved in producing and distributing fake/substandard/unlicensed seeds in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with its likely impact on agricultural production including cotton;

(c) the decrease in agricultural production registered during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) the action taken by the Government against the guilty companies; and

(e) the other necessary steps taken by the Government to provide quality seeds to the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (c) There is no specific report from the State Governments regarding involvement of certain companies in producing and distributing fake/sub-standard/unlicensed seeds, including that of cotton. Overall, there has been no decline in the food grain production in the country during 2010-11 and 2011-12. However, in 2009-10, there was decline in production due to widespread drought in several parts of the country. The detail of food grain production during the last three years is at Annexure I.

(d) In order to curb the sale of fake/substandard/unlicensed seeds, the State Governments have power under the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983, to take actions like issue of warning, show cause notices, stop sale order, trial in the court etc., against suppliers of fake/sub-standard/unlicensed seeds.

(e) For ensuring supply of quality seeds to the farmers, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Central Sector Scheme `Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds`, under which assistance is provided for strengthening and modernizing seed infrastructure facilities, upgrading the quality of farm saved seed through seed village programme, production and distribution of quality seeds, establishing Seed Bank for ensuring seed availability in contingent situations, establishing and strengthening quality control infrastructure facilities in the count ,etc.